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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY China

SUBJECT Factional Strife within the Chinese Communist Party as Observed in Canton

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1. The rift and internal strife between the national and international factions within the Chinese Communist Party is a topic that has been a point of speculation on both inside and outside of mainland China. Despite efforts at brain washing and thought control, intellectuals in Communist China have been watching for signs of such a rift although up to the present [REDACTED] no conclusive evidence is available. The only thing of which non-Communists in China are certain is that the two factions do exist and that the relationship between them is not friendly.
2. It has been observed in Canton that:
 - a. Old Communist leaders of the National Faction like Lin Po-ch'ü and Tang Pi-wu have been "shelved" and are holding only nominal positions.
 - b. Military men are watched by political commissars, usually one Soviet and one Chinese commissar assigned to those of a higher level. General Lin Piao, whose 4th Field Corps was used in Korea and whose "national" views were well-known, has not been mentioned in the press or on the radio since the autumn of 1952. In August 1952, an unsuccessful attempt at assassinating him in Hankow was reported in the newspapers. It seems possible that he is no longer alive.
 - c. The pro-Soviet Minister of Communist Youth, Liao Ch'eng-chi has made at least four trips to Canton in 1953. Although he has not been appointed Chairman of the Provincial People's Government of Kwangtung, as has been rumored, he will be. Each one of his visits had been followed by change of personnel in the Canton area.

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1. Some notable changes in government personnel in Kwangtung have been the following:

a. In the Provincial Government:

- (1) Chairman Yeh Chien-ying (National Faction) has been detained in Peking since June 1952.
- (2) First Vice-Chairman Fang Fang (National Faction) has been inactive.
- (3) Commissioner of Commerce Chu Ching-chih (National Faction) [redacted] will be removed from office.

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b. In the local governments:

- (1) Three of the five mayors of independent city governments have been replaced by Communists of the International Faction.
- (2) Forty-four of the 88 county heads have been similarly replaced by 10 Aug 53.
- (3) Liang Kuang (National Faction), Vice-Mayor of Canton, has made no public appearances since February 1953.

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